

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's identification of claims 1-7 as allowable. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for conducting an interview in this case on June 29, 2005. The remarks and amendments contained herein summarize the discussion held at the interview.

Remarks Directed to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Aoki et al. (6,256,552).

Claims 8-13

As discussed at the interview, Applicant submits that the Aoki reference provides a system for choosing an existing weld gun rather than for designing a weld gun. Independent claim 8 has been amended as discussed and agreed to at the interview. The Examiner indicated that this amendment would overcome the current rejection. In light of this, Applicant submits that claim 8 and dependent claims 9-13 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-22

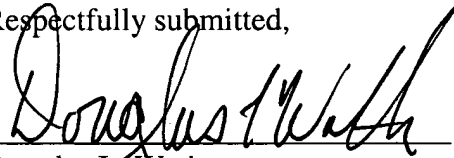
As discussed at the interview, Applicant submits that the Aoki reference does not provide a method for designing a weld gun as in the present invention. As discussed and agreed to at the interview, claim 14 has been amended so as to clarify this distinction, by amending the preamble. The Examiner indicated that this change should distinguish the Aoki reference.

As also discussed at the interview, the present system allows a user to select a parameter variant which results in the system calculating one or more new design characteristic values and presenting them to the user. A parameter variant is a value that is selectable by a user for one of the design parameters. Examples of parameter names are listed in claim 16. These are examples of the type of characteristics that may be altered as an input to the system. The system then calculates one or more design characteristic values based on this change and presents them to the user. Examples of design characteristic values are listed in claim 15.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 14 and dependent claims 16-22 are in condition for allowance.

Any questions should be directed to Applicant's below signed representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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